...YOU'RE AN EMPATH WITH THE ABILITY TO INFLUENCE MINDS.
YOU'RE HERE, IN A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO ORDER ME AROUND.
SO WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO GET ME TO THINK FOR MYSELF?
BECAUSE I HAVE TO BELIEVE THAT YOU CAN.

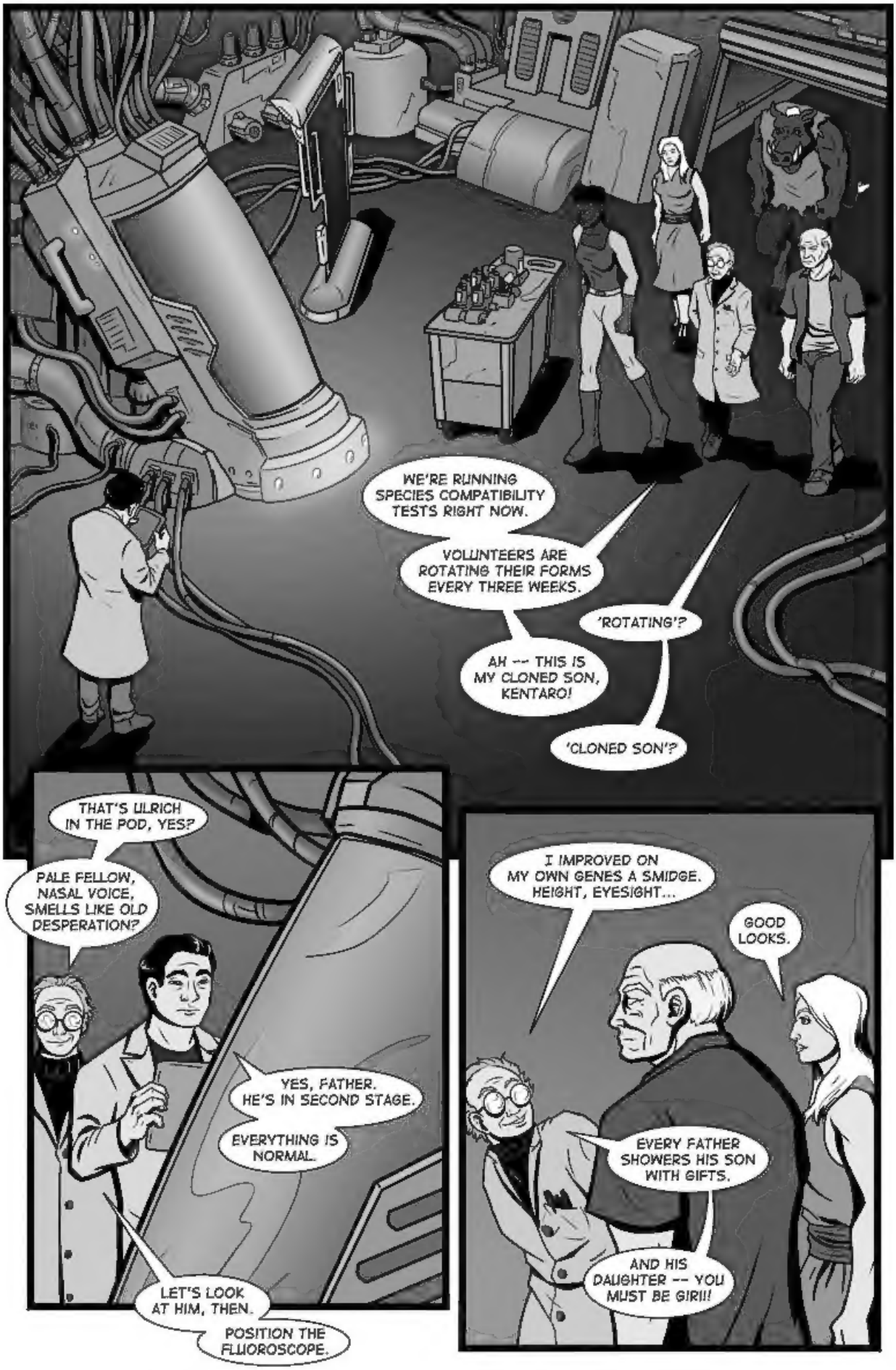
HEY --
OUR NETWORK LATENCY DISAPPEARED.
I THINK WE JUST CAME IN RANGE OF A CENTRAL HUB.
WHAT A PERCEPTIVE YOUNG MAN!
LATER, I MUST ASK YOU TO DONATE A BRAIN SAMPLE...

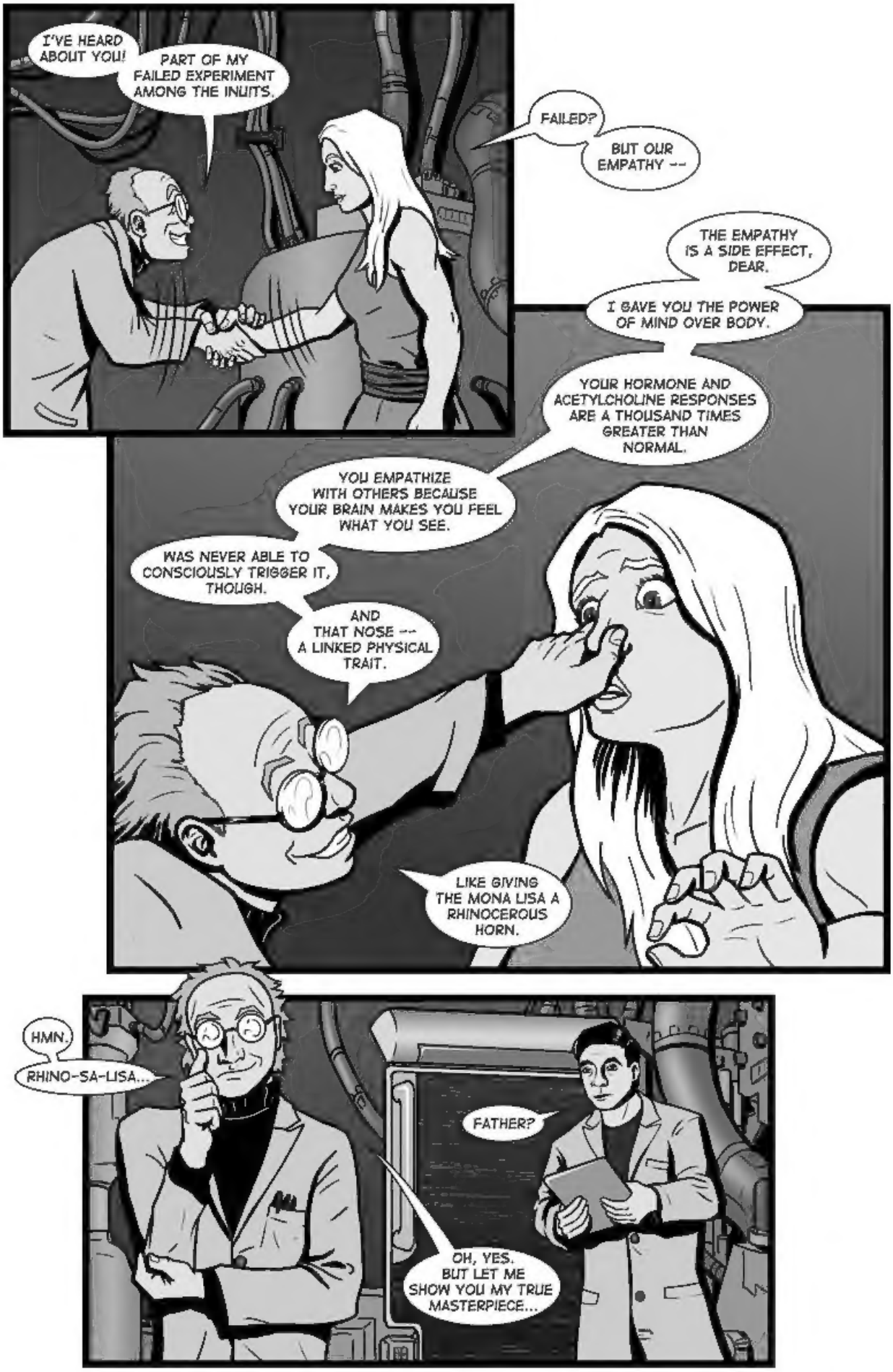
DR. FUMIAKI, I PRESUME.
YES, JACOB. I'VE BROUGHT YOU TO ME BECAUSE YOU ARE AN HONORABLE MAN.
BUT I MUST ASK -- ARE YOU HERE TO KILL ME?
NO.
PROMISE?
GRUMBLE
...YES.
EXCELLENT. MIND GIVING THE YOUNG LADY YOUR RAILGUN?
I JUST FOUND AMMO FOR THIS.
I WON'T PLAY WITH YOUR TOYS.
THEN WELCOME TO CORVO ISLAND.
PART VOLCANO, PART LABORATORY...
...WELL, PRETTY MUCH JUST THOSE TWO THINGS.
DO YOU THINK I SHOULD ALSO BUILD A PETTING ZOO?

READY FOR SOME FRESH AIR?
IS ALL THAT MUSCLE HERE TO ENFORCE MY GOOD BEHAVIOR?
TRUST BUT VERIFY, MY FRIEND.
NOT MANY ISLANDS HAVE AN UNDERWATER ENTRANCE.
I'M GUESSING YOU ALL DON'T GET OUT TO SUNBATHE MUCH.
WE DO TRY TO AVOID SCARING THE LOCALS...

SO HOW MANY LAYERS OF MUSCLE ARE BETWEEN ME AND FUMIAKI?
JUST THIS LAST ONE --
OVER HERE!
JACOB, IT'S SUCH A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
IT REALLY IS.
YOU'RE NOT HERE TO KILL ME, ARE YOU?
NO?
A PLEASURE, THEN.
KILLING YOU WOULD BE A CHALLENGE, DOCTOR.
WHAT WITH ALL THESE BRUTES, ANIMAL-MEN...
...WHAT'S HER DEAL?
I WAS BORN WITHOUT LEGS.
IS THAT A BIG ENOUGH MIRACLE FOR YOU, MURDER MAN?
THAT'S ENOUGH, SALLY.
LET'S SHOW OUR GUESTS AROUND...

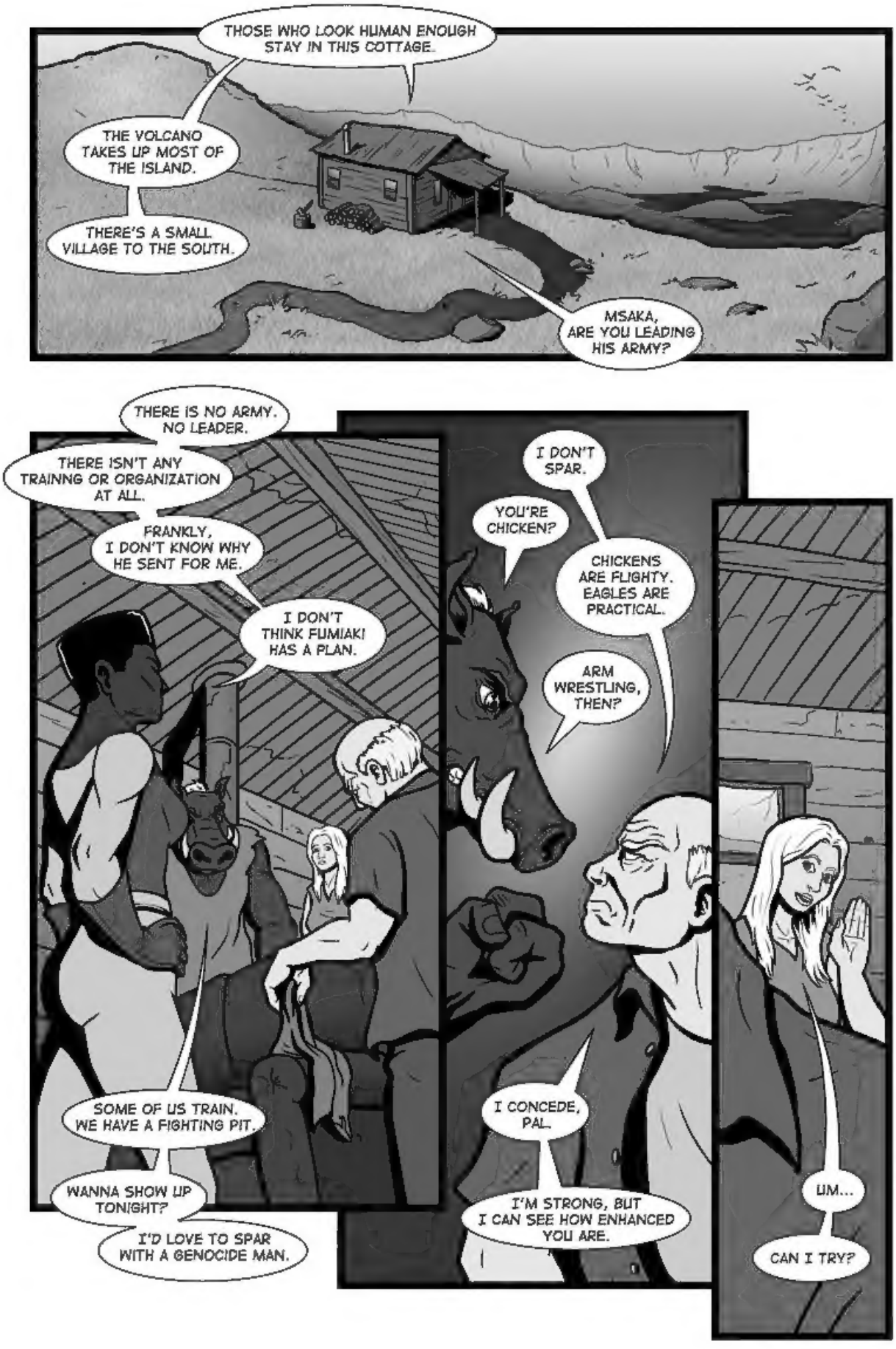
MISS, DID YOU SAY THAT DOCTOR FUMIAKI GAVE YOU NEW LEGS?
YEAH!
AREN'T THEY AMAZING?
UM... I DIDN'T KNOW GENE THERAPY COULD DO...
...THAT.
ROGER!
DON'T TRUST HIM.
COME ON.
THIS IS A BIT OF A HORROR SHOW, BUT YOU'LL WANT TO SEE IT...
...THEY'RE MADE OF CULTURED WHALE FLESH, BUT THEY HAVE NO BRAIN.
JUST ELECTRONICS.
THAT'S GRUESOME.
WELL, GRUESOME IS AS GRUESOME DOES...
HMPH.

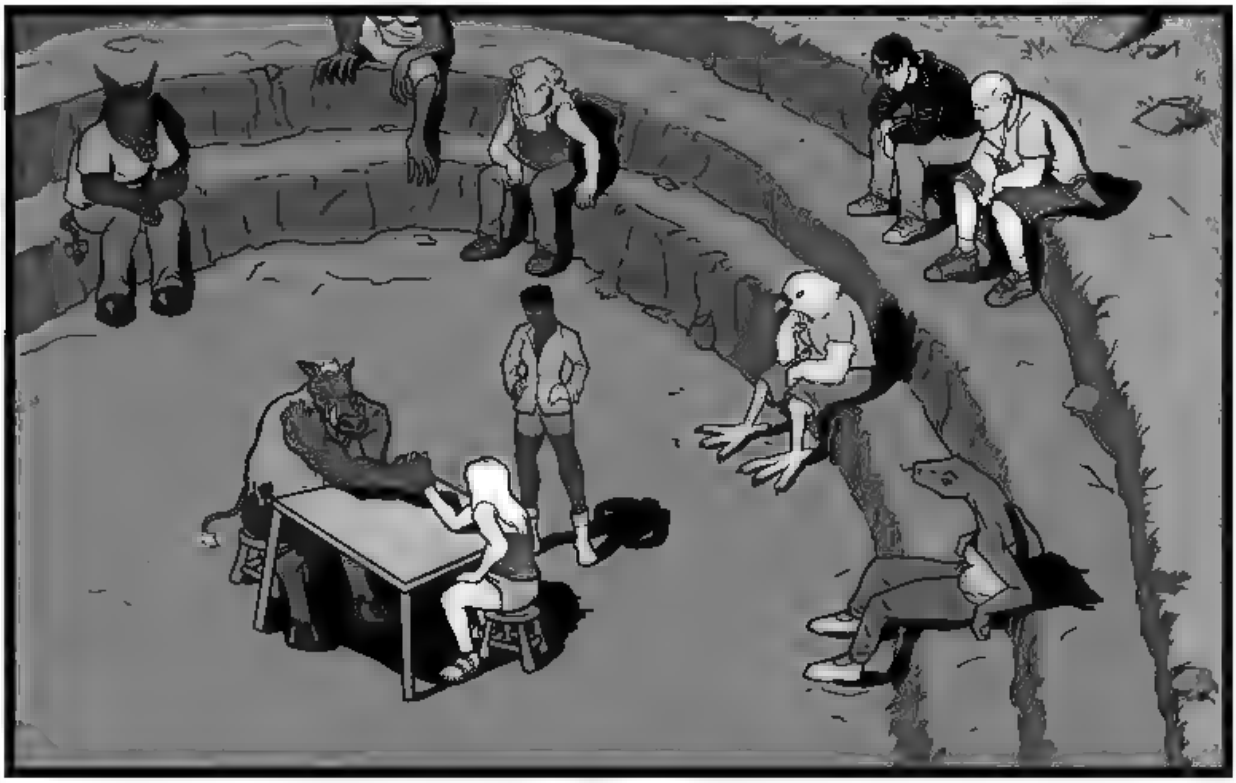

WE'RE RUNNING SPECIES COMPATIBILITY TESTS RIGHT NOW.
VOLUNTEERS ARE ROTATING THEIR FORMS EVERY THREE WEEKS.
'ROTATING'?
AH -- THIS IS MY CLONED SON, KENTARO!
'CLONED SON'?
THAT'S ULRICH IN THE POD, YES?
PALE FELLOW, NASAL VOICE, SMELLS LIKE OLD DESPERATION?
YES, FATHER. HE'S IN SECOND STAGE.
EVERYTHING IS NORMAL.
LET'S LOOK AT HIM, THEN.
POSITION THE FLUOROSCOPE.
I IMPROVED ON MY OWN GENES A SMIDGE. HEIGHT, EYESIGHT...
GOOD LOOKS.
EVERY FATHER SHOWERS HIS SON WITH GIFTS.
AND HIS DAUGHTER -- YOU MUST BE GIRI!!


I'VE HEARD ABOUT YOU!
PART OF MY FAILED EXPERIMENT AMONG THE INUITS.
FAILED?
BUT OUR EMPATHY --
THE EMPATHY IS A SIDE EFFECT, DEAR.
I GAVE YOU THE POWER OF MIND OVER BODY.
YOUR HORMONE AND ACETYLCHOLINE RESPONSES ARE A THOUSAND TIMES GREATER THAN NORMAL.
YOU EMPATHIZE WITH OTHERS BECAUSE YOUR BRAIN MAKES YOU FEEL WHAT YOU SEE.
WAS NEVER ABLE TO CONSCIOUSLY TRIGGER IT, THOUGH.
AND THAT NOSE -- A LINKED PHYSICAL TRAIT.
LIKE GIVING THE MONA LISA A RHINOCEROUS HORN.
HMN.
RHINO-SA-LISA...
FATHER?
OH, YES. BUT LET ME SHOW YOU MY TRUE MASTERPIECE...

THERE, SEE? THE FLUOROSCOPE SHOWS THAT ULRICH IS HANDSOME TOO.
IN STAGE ONE, HE WAS GIVEN A PREPARATORY VIRUS...
...WHICH ENCODED THE ABILITY TO ENTER STAGE TWO; A CHRYSALIS STATE.
WITHIN THIS LIFE SUPPORT POD, THE BODY BECOMES A LIVING SOUP.
ONLY THE BRAIN REMAINS UNDIFFERENTIATED.
FOR GOD'S SAKE, WHY?
BECAUSE IN THIS STATE, I CAN COMPLETELY REWRITE THE PATIENT'S DNA.
I CAN REVERSE AGING!
ADD ORGANS!
INVENT NEW FORMS!
PERFORM GROSS ANATOMICAL CHANGES!
I OFFER NOTHING LESS THAN COMPLETE MORPHOLOGICAL FREEDOM!
JACOB, YOU PROMISED!
NNGH --
I...HE...
HA -- HAHAHA!
BUT JACOB, THIS IS THE NATURAL RESPONSE TO THE GENOCIDE PROJECT...

HOW DO YOU DEFEND AGAINST THOSE WHO ATTACK ENTIRE GENE LINES?
BY MAKING EVERY INDIVIDUAL GENETICALLY UNIQUE!
SCREW ALL THE BIOWEAPONS!
PLAGUES FAIL.
GENETIC PROFILING BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE.
THE VERY DEFINITION OF CAT AND DOG BECOMES PEACEFULLY OBSOLETE!
AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO FORCE THIS ON EVERYBODY?
PLANS?
I DON'T MAKE PLANS, I MAKE BREAKTHROUGHS.
PLANS MAKE THEMSELVES, I ASSUME. THAT'S WHY THEY'RE CALLED PLANS.
MSAKA, IT MAY BE TIME TO SHOW OUR GUESTS TO THE BUNGALOW.
IT'S BEEN QUITE A DAY FOR US ALL.


THOSE WHO LOOK HUMAN ENOUGH STAY IN THIS COTTAGE.
THE VOLCANO TAKES UP MOST OF THE ISLAND.
THERE'S A SMALL VILLAGE TO THE SOUTH.
MSAKA, ARE YOU LEADING HIS ARMY?
THERE IS NO ARMY. NO LEADER.
THERE ISN'T ANY TRAINNG OR ORGANIZATION AT ALL.
FRANKLY, I DON'T KNOW WHY HE SENT FOR ME.
I DON'T THINK FUMIAKI HAS A PLAN.
SOME OF US TRAIN. WE HAVE A FIGHTING PIT.
WANNA SHOW UP TONIGHT?
I'D LOVE TO SPAR WITH A GENOCIDE MAN.
I DON'T SPAR.
YOU'RE CHICKEN?
CHICKENS ARE FLIGHTY. EAGLES ARE PRACTICAL.
ARM WRESTLING, THEN?
I CONCEDE, PAL.
I'M STRONG, BUT I CAN SEE HOW ENHANCED YOU ARE.
UM...
CAN I TRY?



READY?
THREE
TWO
ONE
CALM
NO FEAR
JUST LIKE JACOB

GO!
AHH!

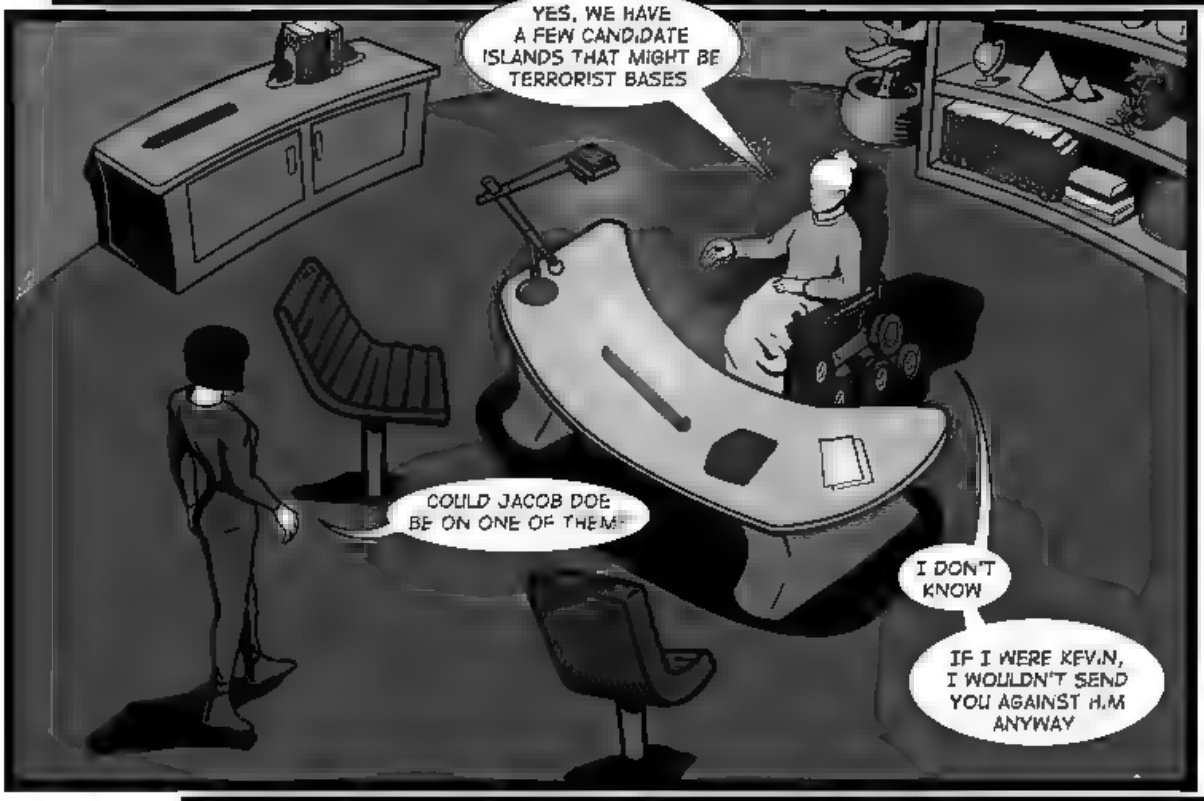
DON'T FEEL BAD, BABY GIRL
I JUST GOT THIS BODY, BUT I THINK IT'S THE DOCTOR'S BEST WORK
SHAME ABOUT THE FACE, THOUGH
WE KNOW YOU HAVE GREAT STRENGTH YOU MUST LEARN HOW TO SUMMON IT
NONE OF THIS FEELS RIGHT
WHAT, THE PIG-MEN?
IN THE LAB UNDERNEATH A VOLCANO?
WHERE THEY TURN PEOPLE INTO SOUP?
STOP ME WHEN I MENTION ANYTHING THAT 'FEELS RIGHT'

FUMIAK. WANTS TO CHANGE THE WORLD, BUT ALL HE'S DOING IS MAKING PLAYTHINGS
WHAT'S HIS ANGLE? WHAT ISN'T HE TELLING US?
UM
DAHNA: TOLD ME NOT TO TRUST HIM.

SHE SAID THAT?
YEAH
THEY WERE FUGITIVES TOGETHER FOR YEARS SHE'S PRACTICALLY HIS DAUGHTER
WHY WOULDN'T SHE TRUST HIM?
I DON'T KNOW

I THINK IT'S TIME I TALKED TO DAHNA.

MISS LAMB
I WAS TOLD THAT YOU WERE TRACKING THE MUTANT WHALE MIGRATIONS?
CAERA


YES, WE HAVE A FEW CANDIDATE ISLANDS THAT MIGHT BE TERRORIST BASES
COULD JACOB DOE BE ON ONE OF THEM?
I DON'T KNOW
IF I WERE KEVIN, I WOULDN'T SEND YOU AGAINST HIM ANYWAY

MISS LAMB
WHY?
IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH ME?
YOU'RE YOUNG AND BRASH
THAT'S NOT A CRITICISM, JUST THE WAY YOU ARE

BUT IT'S A FATAL FLAW AGAINST SOMEONE LIKE JACOB
BUT DON'T I HAVE EVERY ADVANTAGE HE DOES?
HIS AUGMENTS ARE NOT WHAT MAKES JACOB DANGEROUS
HE HAS 80 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN COMBAT, INCLUDING OPERATIONAL KNOWLEDGE OF EVERY MILITARY ON EARTH
HE'S TOO MUCH TACTICIAN FOR YOU
TOO MUCH FOR KEVIN?
A TODDLER PLAYING TIDDLYWINKS HAS BETTER TACTICS THAN KEVIN
KEVIN'S WAY IS TO FIND JACOB, THEN TURN THE AREA INTO A PARKING LOT
THEN BOMB THE LOT UNTIL HE SEES MAGMA.
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T FOLLOW KEVIN'S EXAMPLE
SO HOW WOULD YOU DEFEAT JACOB DOE?
SIGH
I'D PLAY ON HIS GUILT...

NEXT -- CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE UNRAVELING

GENOCIDE MAN
CHAPTER 11 - THE UNRAVELING

QUITE A STEP UP FROM THE JUNGLE
DAHNA'S CAMP IN THE RAINFOREST WAS ACTUALLY KIND OF NICE
I WOULDN'T KNOW DIDN'T SEE HER BOUDOIR

HI, ROGER
AND MR DOE
CALL ME JACOB
IS THIS A SPECIAL OCCASION?
IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE I HAD A REAL DANCE FLOOR I PRACTICE DAILY
SHE'S TEACHING LARGO TO WALTZ
BUT LARGO HAS TWO LEFT HANDS WHERE HIS FEET SHOULD BE
YOU DO FINE, LARGO
WHAT DID YOU WANT, JACOB?

I HEAR THAT YOU DON'T TRUST DOCTOR FUMIAKI.
THAT WAS SAID IN CONFIDENCE
I THINK YOU KNOW FUMIAKI'S PLANS
HE DOESN'T MAKE PLANS REALLY
BUT YOU KNOW SOMETHING, DON'T YOU?
TELL ME, JACOB, DO YOU DANCE?
NO
OH, COME ON
IN MY EXPERIENCE, MEN OF ACTION ARE LIGHT ON THEIR FEET

THERE, SEE? YOU MOVE WELL
WHAT'S HE DOING, DAHNA?
TRY TO MOVE WITH THE RHYTHM, NOT MAKE YOUR OWN
WHAT IS HE GOING TO DO WITH THAT NEW TECH?
YOU'D DANCE BETTER IF YOU DIDN'T KEEP REPEATING THE SAME STEPS
LOOK, DAHNA! I DON'T WANT TO HURT HIM.
BUT HE'S BEEN PLANNING SOMETHING FOR YEARS
THE EXPERIMENTS ON THE INUITS
THE SLO-COWS
NOW THE CHRYSALIS PODS
THEY'RE ALL PART OF A LARGER PLAN I KNOW IT
LARGO WISHES HE WAS PART OF SOMETHING LARGER
BUT IT'S OBVIOUS HE'S SOME KIND OF FAILURE
I KNOW THE FEELING

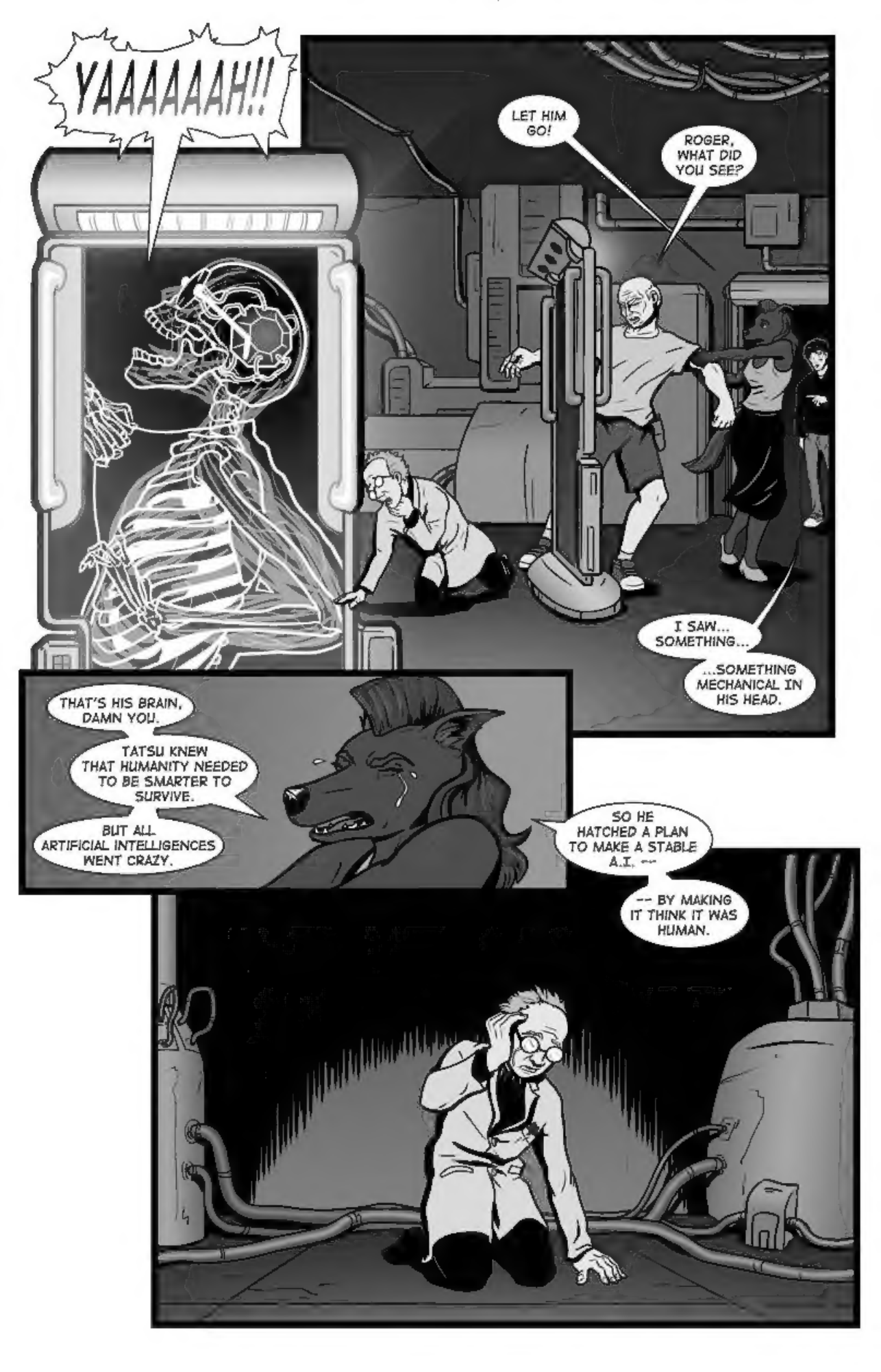
LOOK
ALL I CAN SAY IS
DOCTOR FUMIAK! JUST ISN'T THE MAN HE USED TO BE
HE'S --
HE'S NOT, IS HE?
WAIT! I DIDN'T MEAN THAT!
HE'S NOT PLANNING ANYTHING, REALLY!
YEAH I BELIEVE THAT NOW

DOCTOR FuMAK!
YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF AN EXPERT IN CLONING, DON'T YOU?
HMN?
WHY YES, JACOB IT'S A BASIC TECHNOLOGY

YOU CLONED MSAKA IN AFRICA
I WAS REPAYING A DEBT
AND CLONED YOURSELF A SON
AFRAID I WAS NEVER VERY GOOD AT DATING

IN THE AMAZON, YOU PUT CLONED HUMAN BRAINS INTO SLO-COWS
YES, BUT THAT RESEARCH WAS A DEAD END
THIS DOES NOT SURPRISE LARGO

AND THEN YOU PUT ELECTRONIC BRAINS IN CLONED WHALES.
A USEFUL MEANS OF TRANSPORT --
WHAT? LET GO!
WHEN WAS YOUR LAST CHECKUP, DOCTOR?
HELP! HELP, HE'S GONE MAD!
CLICK
STOP IT -- LET HIM GO!
WAIT! I THINK I KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING...
NO NO NO NO PLEASE DON
M TOO OLD AND THE CANCER RISK
UNCURABLE, UNPLEASANT, PROBAB
LL OF BEETLE LARVAE AND JELLYBEANS
S UNREGULATED RADIATION AND I ADMIT
I HAVE A PHOBIA OF THAT PART OF THE ELECTROMAGNETIC SPECTRUM IT JUST SMELLS
PURPLEY TO ME JACOB I'M BEGGING YOU DO
YOU WOULDN'T STICK A NEANDERTHAL
A MICROWAVE AAAAHH MAYBE YOU WOULD
ONE STOP HIM HE'S GOING TO ACTIVATE THE GAMMA IT BURNS I SWEAR IT
I HAVE SINUS INFECTIONS AND YOU KNOW WHAT ISOTOPES DO TO SINUSES AAAAHH ST
STOP STOP STOP STOP PLEASE


YAAAAAAH!!
LET HIM GO!
ROGER, WHAT DID YOU SEE?
I SAW... SOMETHING...
...SOMETHING MECHANICAL IN HIS HEAD.
THAT'S HIS BRAIN, DAMN YOU.
TATSU KNEW THAT HUMANITY NEEDED TO BE SMARTER TO SURVIVE.
BUT ALL ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCES WENT CRAZY.
SO HE HATCHED A PLAN TO MAKE A STABLE A.I. --
-- BY MAKING IT THINK IT WAS HUMAN.

TATSU TRANSPLANTED AN A.I. CORE INTO HIS CLONE.
WHEN TATSU DIED IN THE AMAZON, I WOKE THE CLONE UP.
IT HAS HIS MEMORIES, AND SKILLS, IT'S JUST...

...IT'S JUST NOT MY TATSU.

IT'S A ROGUE A.I., AND IT'S COMPLETELY INSANE.
HE SEEMS FINE SO FAR.
HE'S BUILDING AN ARMY OF MUTANTS IN AN UNDERGROUND VOLCANIC LAIR.
YEAH, BUT THAT'S JUST PRACTICAL.
WHERE ELSE WOULD YOU BUILD A MUTANT ARMY?

YOU CAN'T KILL HIM JUST BECAUSE HE MIGHT...
EXPLOSIVE.
HORSES.
...OKAY.
MAYBE HE IS A LITTLE CRAZY.
LOOK, I DON'T HAVE TO KILL HIM.
BUT WE SHOULD RESTRAIN HIM, AND NOT TRUST ANY OF THE TECH HE'S INVENTED....
UH, SHOULD WE KEEP AN EYE ON HIM?
BECAUSE I THINK HE RAN AWAY.